

AIDS
Network of
Edmonton
Society

The
AIDS
Network

V.I.P. NEWS



Volume 9, Issue 1

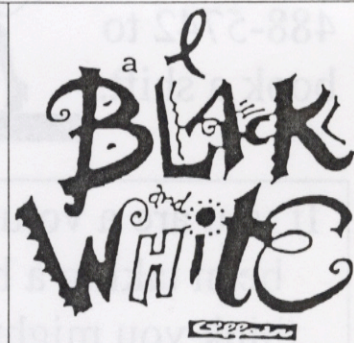
Jan/Feb 1997

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Mark March 8 on your Calendars for the 7th Annual Black & White Affair

Fans of the Black and White Affair will know what to expect from the event — great music, creative silent auction items, dancing, smart martinis, and, of course, seeing and being seen! Over the past seven years, the Black and White has grown from a small celebration to become one of Edmonton's most popular and well-supported events. This year's Black and White Affair happens on March 8 at Commerce Place downtown.



And this year, the Affair continues to grow with the addition of 'A Prelude to an Affair', a dinner featuring an exclusive performance by soprano Irén Bartók. "It's important that we continue to build on the success of previous years, and to keep the event from getting stale. So we decided to add another component with the Prelude," says event coordinator Lisa Pasin-Linklater. The Prelude will host only 120 guests and in addition to the recital, includes dinner, cocktails and admission to the Black and White Affair. "It's an excellent way to get a start to the evening," continues Pasin-Linklater, "and a fantastic opportunity to see a singer who is really a world-class performer." A rapidly rising star in the worlds of musical theatre and opera, Irén's big break came when she landed the role of Christine in the London production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. Since then she's gone on to perform in *Cats* and in leading roles in productions of *Madama Butterfly* and *La Bohème*. "She's dynamic and very entertaining. Irén has sold out shows the last three times she's performed in Edmonton. She's been very supportive in agreeing to perform for us."

"We're also happy to welcome back the Kit Kat Club on our mainstage this year — by popular demand! Anyone who was at the Black and White Affair last year, or has caught one of their shows in the clubs around town knows how much energy and fun they bring to an event."

According to ANE Board chair Susan Jamieson, the continued success of the Black and White Affair can be traced to the fact that the event is always changing, citing last year's addition of 'The Balloon Project' as an example. "The balloons were a real hit. People were obviously really enthusiastic about the idea — all 300 balloons sold in about 10 minutes! Based on that success, we're bringing the Balloon Project back this year," adds Pasin-Linklater. Like the 1996 Balloon Project, balloons will be sold for only \$20. Each balloon can be traded in for merchandise or services with a minimum value of \$30.

(Continued on page 3)

HELPLINE



488-5816

V.I.P. News

A bi-monthly newsletter for the
supporters of the
AIDS Network of Edmonton Society.

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

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Edmonton, AB, T5K 0M1
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VOLUNTEER CORNER

Now scheduling volunteers for
A Black and White Affair
March 8, '97 Commerce Place.

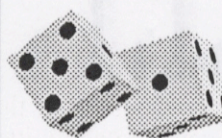
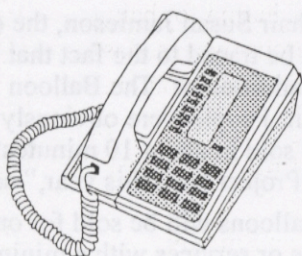
Call June @
488-5742 to
book a shift.



If you are a volunteer who has been taking a break or you think you might like to try a different area of work, please call June and arrange to come in and chat about it. We need you all, and want you to be happy volunteering.

Once again we need people who are available during the day to help out at the reception desk. It's a great way to gain experience and to get to know the staff.

Interested?
Please call June
@ 488-5742.
Shifts are from
9-1pm and
1pm-5pm



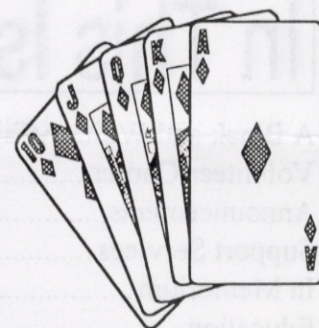
**Come and experience the thrill
of Casino!**

**Volunteers urgently needed
April 21 and 22. Baccarat Casino**

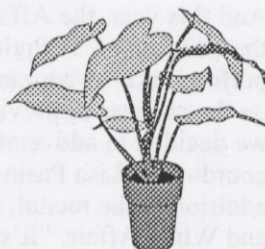
Needed: Chip runners, cashiers,
count room staff, bankers

Shifts: Various times between
10:30am and 3am (next Day).

We have to send applications in by
the 1st week in February,
so please call June at 488-5742 as
soon as possible to book your shift.



We are also looking for a volunteer with a green thumb to come in once a week to take care of our plants.



If you are a plant lover who is available a few hours a week, this might be for you. Please call June at 488-5742 for more information.

V.I.P. News is looking for submissions from its readers. Do you have any thoughts you'd like to share? What about poems or ideas for articles? Please forward any submissions to:

V.I.P. News
#201, 11456 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 0M1

You can also fax them to 488-3735, or e-mail them to ane@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

V.I.P. News reserves the right to edit all submissions for content and length.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

"A Black and White Affair"

"It's a great deal, and a lot of fun. And it's affordable."

Also back at the Black and White is the silent auction, one of the best you'll find at an Edmonton fundraiser. The organizing committee tries to ensure that the silent auction items are packaged creatively, often combining several different items into one lot based on a theme: fitness, romance or adventure, to name a few. Add to that fine custom-made jewellery, art and other 'intriguing things', and you end up with a wide variety of items sure to provide something to interest anyone. Pasin-Linklater urges everyone to "get out there and bid! The silent auction brings in a pretty large percentage of the event's proceeds."

The support of the community is the key to the success of the Black and White Affair. Each year, over 300 companies and individuals donated goods or services. From entertainers and donors to the auction and balloon project to the major sponsors Syncrude Canada and Canadian Utilities Ltd., community support helped the 1996 Black and White raise over \$33,000 to support the programs of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, funding that is increasingly more important in today's climate of government restraint. "We're extremely fortunate to receive this high level of community support," adds Susan Jamieson. "It allows us to provide much-needed services to our clients. We're really excited about this year's event; it promises to be bigger and better than ever."

Tickets for A Black and White Affair are \$25 in advance. Tickets for Prelude to an Affair are \$100 and include dinner, the recital by Irén Bartók and admission to the Black and White Affair. Tickets go on sale to the general public on February 15 and are available through Ticketmaster at 451-8000 or the AIDS Network office at 488-5742. If you'd like to get a head start on buying your tickets, get on our mailing list by calling the Network at 488-5742—you'll be able to pick up your tickets starting February 1.

Speakers Bureau

The next Speakers' Bureau training will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 1997 at the A.N. E.

This is a training for both new and experienced speakers. The subject will be how to present AIDS 101.

There will also be a training update meeting sometime in the spring.

Call Heather at 488-5742 to register.

1996 AIDS WALK... FINAL UPDATE

After patiently waiting for pledgers to bring their money in, a final total of funds raised from the 1996 AIDS Walk Edmonton was determined. A net revenue of \$45,000 was raised for the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society; Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society; Living Positive; Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society; and the Interfaith Association on AIDS. This total includes pledges collected by walkers and dollars donated by corporate sponsors.

Another big thanks to Glaxo Wellcome in partnership with BioChem Pharma for being the event's major sponsor. Their support for this event has been generous over the last few years, and continues to be a major factor in the success of AIDS Walk Edmonton.

Finally, thank you to all the walkers who participated and raised pledges this year. Your support will help the four benefitting agencies continue their work in the fight against AIDS.

On a final 'Walk Note,' the 1997 AIDS Walk Edmonton will be held on Sunday, September 28. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

AIDS Walk



Edmonton 1996

SUPPORT SERVICES

In Memorium

We Remember

Peter Gerk

Karl K.

John Abbott

Gerry W.

Margaret v. F.



*A Memorial Service will be held
at the A.N.E. on Thursday,
February 13, 1997 7:30p.m.*

ON-GOING HIV SUPPORT GROUPS

Monday Night Support Group

Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society: Living Positive.

(Call the organization at 488-5768 for information prior to attending the meeting).

Heterosexual Support Group

This is a monthly facilitated support group where heterosexual individuals and couples meet to provide and receive mutual support.

Contact Bernie Modrovsky @ 492-6098 for details.

Family, Friends and Partners Support Group

Please call 488-5742 for more information.

Caregivers Support Group

Meets every other Tuesday evening 7:30PM at St. John's Church, 9830 - 149 St.

Contact Bernie Modrovsky at 492-6098 for details.

PRESS RELEASE - January 10, 1997

In light of the recent revelations in the Hockey world around sexual abuse, and recent studies showing that victims of sexual abuse are more likely to be infected with HIV in their lifetimes, the AIDS Network of Edmonton would like to provide information regarding risk activities, safer sex and HIV Testing and to provide supportive resources to those wishing to access them.

A study from the BC Centre for Excellence's in HIV/AIDS Vanguard Project presented at the XI International Conference last summer shows that young men who were sexually abused sometime in their in lives were twice as likely to have engaged in high risk behavior in the past year. This highlights the need for individuals who have been sexually abused to be educated around high risk sexual activities and the need for counselling and HIV Testing.

Edward Sandberg, Coordinator of Support Services at the AIDS Network of Edmonton, stated "it is important that individuals abused in this manner be aware of risk activities and be able to make informed decisions around HIV testing". The AIDS Network of Edmonton provides individual and group counselling, information dealing with HIV transmission, safer sex and working in conjunction with the STD Clinic - HIV testing.

Keith Turton, Director of Public Education, from the Sexual Assault Centre says "that the positive aspect of these disclosures is that it encourages the silent victims to come forward and to know that they are not alone and that help is available". The Sexual Assault Centre offers support though a 24 hour crisis line (423-4121) and counselling services.

GMOC UPDATE

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and bring everyone up to date on upcoming GMOC events and activities. My name is Kirk Starkie and I am Program Administrator for the GAY MEN'S OUTREACH CREW -- a position that I know will be both challenging and rewarding!!! Since GMOC recognizes the important relationship between self-esteem, pride in being gay, and safer sexual practices, we offer a number of workshops that may be of interest to you or someone you know. All workshops are free, but space is limited so register early so you won't miss out. Call Kirk at 488-5742 from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday, or leave a message on our **24 hour Hotline at 988-3671**. All workshops will be held at St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta Campus.

COMING OUT IN THE 90'S

February 19 - March 26, 1997; Wednesdays 7 - 10 PM

Six weekly sessions for men of all ages in the early stages of "coming out". Discuss coming out to family and friends, homophobia and its effects, self-acceptance, and other issues in a safe and supportive environment.

BEING GAY IN THE 90'S

February 20 - April 10, 1997; Thursdays 7 - 10 PM
Eight group directed sessions examining gay history, legal issues, risk taking, negotiating, and "coming out" powerfully in today's social and political environment.

MEN MEETING MEN IN THE 90'S "SEX, DATING, AND INTIMACY"

April 16 - May 7, 1997; Wednesdays 7 - 10 PM
Four weekly sessions exploring different aspects of relationships, being comfortable with love, sex, being gay and strengthening bonds with each other and the community.

The Gay Men's Outreach Crew is always looking for "a few good men" to help out with our activities.

GMOC ADVOCACY CREW

Participates in other organizations such as GALA, GLCCE, Police Liaison Committee, etc. representing GMOC and building community ties.

GMOC FACILITATORS CREW

Facilitates our various lifestyle workshops. Skills include; understanding of group dynamics and process, communication, a non-judgmental and sensitive attitude, and the ability to research and direct group discussions.

GMOC MARKETING AND INNOVATIONS CREW

Plans, develops, and produces promotional, outreach, advertising, and workshop materials. Explore your creative potential!

GMOC OUTREACH CREW

Outgoing, dynamic, flexible, and friendly people are needed to carry out education campaigns in a variety of settings.

Feel free to call Kirk at 488-5742 with any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

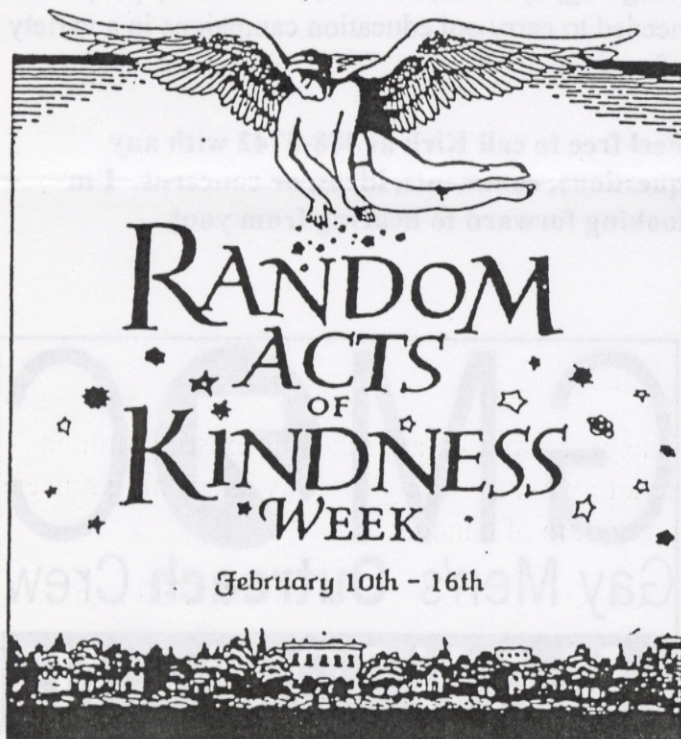


IMMIGRANT AND VISIBLE MINORITY WOMEN ORGANIZING AGAINST HIV/AIDS

The National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada (NOIVMWC) is sponsoring Phase III of a national demonstration project called 'Towards the Implementation of Prevention Education Strategies', funded by the AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP) of Health Canada. Edmonton has been chosen as one of the demonstration sites, and Stella Yeung will be the Coordinator here in Edmonton, at the AIDS Network. Stella will be responsible for not only managing the project but also facilitating the work with immigrant and visible minority women in Edmonton and area.

The goals are to (1) implement and evaluate prevention education strategies developed in Phase II of the project, (2) advance community development by bringing the issues related to HIV/AIDS to public light in a way which will raise awareness of the community, (3) create conditions and provide tools which will allow immigrant and visible minority women/groups to continue their work on HIV/AIDS, (4) outreach, develop linkages and networks with groups and individuals in different communities who are infected, affected or concerned with HIV/AIDS related issues, (5) increase participation by ethnocultural communities in an important issue which affects their lives in various ways, and (6) encourage advocacy work so women can be part of the decision-making power.

If you are interested in finding out more about this project, or would like to participate in some way, please contact Stella Yeung at 917-0342, or 488-5742.



10306 112 ST
EDMONTON,
ALBERTA

Shake & Spear's

10306 112 ST
EDMONTON,
ALBERTA

DROP-IN GAY &
LESBIAN DART
LEAGUE
THURSDAYS

DARTS & RUMPUS ROOM

429-7234

KIDS WELCOME
SUNDAYS ONLY
1:00PM TILL
8:00pm

LADIES ONLY
DANCE:

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH &
EVERY FRIDAY
(OPEN DANCE) FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

NOW SERVING LUNCH EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:00AM TILL 2:00PM

OPEN AT 4:00PM DAILY

DROP-IN & PICK UP A SHAKE & SPEAR'S CALENDAR

February 14, 1997

A Women's Only

Valentine's Day Event

8:00 PM - Only at Shake & Spear's

A Benefit for the Techniques Volleyball Team

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Community colleagues and Friends of the AIDS Network:

I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign from the Board of the ANE. To avoid misunderstandings, the Board and I thought it prudent to advise you of my reasons for making this decision.

Recently, my job responsibilities have shifted considerably, and at the same time, the Federal department I work for, Human Resources Development Canada signed an agreement with the Province of Alberta to transfer Labour Market Adjustment Service delivery resources to Alberta. This means that most of what I've been involved with through my work over the last 25 years is being shifted to the Province. I am convinced that I must focus my energies on these quite significant events, which carry considerable impact on my career and on the kind of tasks that I will be expected to perform in the future.

As for my volunteer work with the ANE, this development comes when we are beginning to experience the anticipated positive outcomes of the management decisions taken by the Board through 1996. I expect that the restructuring activities we have launched will continue to support the revitalization of the ANE in the coming years. I leave reluctantly, as I have invested much of my time and energy in the conception and leadership of these changes.

I wish to congratulate the staff and the Board for staying with the challenges placed before them over the last several months. It has been an inspiration to work with such a determined and talented team. From my perspective the AIDS Network of Edmonton is now situated to move forward in a much changed environment and to once more take on a role of leadership and cooperation in the networking of community efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to support infected individuals and groups.

*Sincerely,
Al Fitzpatrick*

....Times they are a Changin'...

With thanks to folk singer Bob Dylan, truer words were never spoken regarding changes at the ANE. The reorganization of the agency began in the fall of 1996, with the realization that the ANE needed to realign its staffing components to meet our mandate and our client needs. The "reorg" will have two streams, one the program area, which will include education and support and the other the administration and infrastructure functions that support the work of the agency.

In consultation with the staff, the Board felt this was the best way to maximize our existing human resources and streamline our operation. We anticipate a few bumps along the way as we all get used to the new structure, but this is to be expected during any time of change.

We truly believe this structure has the ability to take the agency, and all its good work, well into the 21st century.

Susan Jamieson

Submitted by Bob Mills. The views expressed are not necessarily those of The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society. The following appeared on the editorial page of the 11/28 issue of the Bay Area Reporter, the flagship gay weekly in San Francisco. Reprinted by permission of news editor Mike Salinas.

NO MORE MARKING WORLD AIDS DAY

Of all the commemorative days devised worldwide, the one we have always hated most is World AIDS Day. Although we understood the intent of the day was to honor and remember those taken by the epidemic, and to continue the pressure on the powers-that-be for a cure, it always ended up depressing the hell out of us. But times have changed.

This World AIDS Day [...] brings with it something that has been missing before now: the sense that we humans are strong enough, smart enough, and resilient enough to get through anything. The disease that has grown more terrifying every year since 1981 has begun to lose its supremacy, so much so that we can mark this World AIDS Day with more hope than fear -- or even anger.

For the past few months, Bay Area Reporter readers have been noticing something that shows what we're talking about: the obituaries are steadily decreasing. Some people have even called the B.A.R. to ask if we have begun holding the obits; the answer is no. We never have, and never will. As always, we print what we get; we're just getting fewer.

The [...] nadir of the epidemic for us was when we [...] printed 37 death notices -- over three-and-a-half pages -- several years ago. The most we've had so far in 1996 (which is, of course, very near over) was 16, and that was in January.

This week, like last week, we have *four*. And for those who didn't notice, *three of the four last week were not AIDS-related*.

It's important to acknowledge that simply counting obits is not a scientific study, but it does indicate that something is going our way for now.

Unfortunately -- yes, there's an "unfortunately" -- an impediment to progress has just surfaced. David Kessler of the Food and Drug Administration has announced he will leave the agency [...], which seems to have caught the Clinton Administration by surprise. (It shouldn't. We heard it was likely more than a week ago, so we're as surprised at the White House's lack of awareness as we are of its apparent ignorance of other matters of interest to the lesbian and gay community. Like military witchhunts, for example. But we digress.)

Kessler's resignation, following that of AIDS "Czar" Patsy Fleming, could be devastating. Not that Fleming did so much that she's irreplaceable -- nothing could be further from the truth, in fact -- but we shudder at the notion of so many empty chairs in Washington, when they should be filled with people looking out for the AIDS community.

The drugs that reached pharmacy shelves when Kessler ran the FDA have played the most significant role to date in reducing the AIDS-related death rate, but they are only the beginning. Or at least, they should be. We hope today's protease inhibitors and NNRTIs are the equivalent of candlestick telephones, and that continued research will come up with improvements on the order of digital cellular hands-free models. The kinks to be worked out of current drugs involve making them less toxic, more bioavailable (Delavirdine, which will probably be approved by the end of the year, is dosed at a dozen pills a day!) and a lot less expensive.

All of which is possible. If we can come to the level we have reached so far, from total ignorance of antiviral therapy, we can certainly improve our knowledge and technology even more, to come up with second- and third-generation inhibitors that will render obsolete what is currently state of the art.

But for that to happen, the FDA must be run by someone who cares about the problem and is committed to doing something about it. That doesn't mean some exec or former exec or soon-to-be-former exec of the pharmaceutical industry -- and it's important for Clinton to understand that. The agency needs to be a watchdog of drug manufacturers, not their lapdog.

The epidemic is not over, but its end is no longer unthinkable. What is needed is more, not less, commitment now that we are determining that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We're still looking forward to the year when World AIDS Day is *celebrated*, rather than simply observed, and we hear the question, "Daddy, what *was* AIDS?"